

Introduced by Senator Emmerson

March 4, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 21, as introduced, Emmerson. Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month.

This measure would designate March 2013 as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), as defined by
2 the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, is a
3 progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a
4 combination of symptoms that affects both the autonomic nervous
5 system and movement; and

6 WHEREAS, The cause or causes of MSA are unknown and
7 there is no known cure; and

8 WHEREAS, It can take years to diagnose MSA because of its
9 similarity to Parkinson’s disease; and

10 WHEREAS, MSA is categorized into two types, parkinsonian
11 and cerebellar, and the categorization is based on the most
12 prominent symptoms at the time an individual is evaluated; and

13 WHEREAS, Primary symptoms of the parkinsonian type
14 (MSA-P) are slow movement, stiff muscles, tremors, balance and
15 coordination problems, and autonomic nervous system dysfunction;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, Primary symptoms of the cerebellar type (MSA-C)
2 are difficulty swallowing, slurred speech, a quavering voice, and
3 ataxia; and

4 WHEREAS, Additional symptoms include chronic shortening
5 of muscles or tendons around joints, abnormal body posture,
6 uncontrollable sighing or gasping, inappropriate laughing or crying,
7 fainting and dizziness due to severely low blood pressure, bladder
8 and bowel issues, loss of fine motor skills, impotence, nausea,
9 vision changes, dry mouth and skin, trouble regulating body
10 temperature, and sleep disturbances; and

11 WHEREAS, Treatment to control individual symptoms is
12 available, but there is currently nothing to prevent the disease from
13 getting worse; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon diagnosis, the typical survival time is seven
15 to nine years, although almost 80 percent are bedridden or
16 wheelchair dependent after only five years; and

17 WHEREAS, Prevalence of MSA is estimated at 4.6 cases per
18 100,000 people, and is more common in men than in women; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
21 *thereof concurring*, That March 2013 is hereby proclaimed to be
22 Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.